

Message Text

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ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-11 TRSE-00 RSC-01 /023 R

66616

DRAFTED BY: COMM:IEPR:OTP:TND:AWARNER/DGARDNER

7/25/74 X-3368

APPROVED BY: WBARRACLOUGH

COMM:IEPR/OTP/TND DSCHECHTY STA/HLAWRENCE TREASURY:MNFELDMAN

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COM/IEPR OTP:TND/WDNEWKIRK

----- 031157

R 292047Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GH

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, NONTARIFF TRADE
BARRIER DATA BASE

REF: (A) ACCRA A-53, (B) OBR 72-068, (C) STATE A-3164, (D)
GENEVA 4185, (E) ACCRA 3546.

1. NTB TASK FORCE APPRECIATES EMBASSY'S TIMELY RESPONSE
(REF (A)) TO REF (C). ON SOME NTBS INCLUDED IN EMBASSY'S
RESPONSE, HOWEVER, WE NEED FURTHER INFORMATION. WE WOULD ALSO
APPRECIATE EMBASSY CLARIFICATION OF OTHER INFORMATION DEVELOPED
HERE.

2. SALES TAX ON PETROLEUM PRODUCTS-PLEASE RESPOND MORE FULLY
ACCORDING TO GUIDELINES REF (C).

3. VEHICLE TAX-DOES TAX SCHEDULE HAVE EFFECT OF
DISCRIMINATING AGAINST U.S. EXPORTS?

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4. GHANA INDUSTRIAL HOLDING CORPORATION (GIHOC)- COMMERCE

UNDERSTANDS THIS STATE COMPANY HAS INTERESTS IN OR CONTROLS
17 MAJOR GHANAIAN INDUSTRIES. WHAT IS EFFECT ON TRADE
GENERALLY AND GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT POLICIES IN PARTICULAR?

5. PRICE AND INCOMES BOARD DECREE (1972) - INFORMATION
AVAILABLE HERE INDICATES BOARD ISSUES MAXIMUM PRICING
REGULATIONS AND ALL PRICE INCREASES MUST BE APPROVED BY
BOARD. DO THESE REGULATIONS HAVE OR APPEAR LIKELY TO HAVE
A RESTRICTIVE EFFECT ON TRADE?

6. STANDARDS DECREE (1973) - IN ADDITION TO OTHER FUNCTIONS
AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS DECREE, (I.E., FORMULATING PRODUCTS
STANDARDS AND PACKAGING AND LABELING REQUIREMENTS), THE GHANA
STANDARDS BOARD HAS POWER TO PROHIBIT IMPORTATION OF GOODS
NOT IN GHANA'S "NATIONAL INTEREST". PLEASE COMMENT.

7. REF (D) REFERS TO RECENT U.S./ GHANAIAN DISCUSSIONS IN
GENEVA WHERE GHANAIS REPORTED DETAILS OF THEIR LICENSING
SYSTEM AS FOLLOWS. ALL IMPORTS MUST FIRST BE APPROVED BY
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIES AND THEN BY IMPORTS LICENSING
COMMITTEE. IF REQUESTED IMPORT IS "SENSITIVE" COMMODITY,
IT MUST ALSO BE APPROVED BY LOGISTICS COMMITTEE. ALL
IMPORTS ARE LICENSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT'S
ECONOMIC PLAN AND LICENSES ARE ISSUED IN RELATION TO SIZE
OF IMPORTING COMPANY (I.E. LARGEST RECEIVES PREFERENCE).
THERE IS NO DISCRIMINATION BY SOURCE. IT APPEARS FROM THIS
DESCRIPTION THAT LICENSING SYSTEM FULLY CONTROLS IMPORT
SIDE OF GHANA'S FOREIGN TRADE. IN ADDITION TO CONFIRMING
AND COMMENTING ON ABOVE, PLEASE INDICATE WHAT GUIDELINES
DETERMINE APPROVAL BY MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIES, IMPORT
LICENSING COMMITTEE, AND LOGISTICS COMMITTEE.

8. BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ALSO REVEALED THAT THE SALES
TAX OF 11 1/2 PERCENT ON IMPORTS HAS BEEN DISCONTINUED. PLEASE
CONFIRM.

9. COMMERCE UNDERSTANDS THAT BOTH GHANA SUPPLY COMMISSION
(GSC) AND NATIONAL TRADING CORPORATION (GNTC) MAY REQUIRE
POSTING OF PERFORMANCE BONDS FROM SUPPLIERS. EMBASSY
REPORTED (REF E) THAT GHANAIAN PURCHASER'S "OWN DISCRETION"
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DETERMINES WHO MUST POST BONDS. DOES THIS "DISCRETION"
FOLLOW ANY DETECTABLE GUIDELINES? ARE DOMESTIC SUPPLIERS
ALSO REQUIRED TO POST PERFORMANCE BONDS?

10. BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENTS (BTAS) - DO GHANAIAN BTSS
INCLUDE PRODUCTS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST TO U.S. TRADE?
IS EMBASSY AWARE OF U.S. PRODUCTS WHOSE SALES HAVE BEEN
ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY BTAS? WHAT IS LIKELIHOOD OF GHANA

FURTHER REDUCING ITS RELIANCE ON BTAS?
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NONTARIFF BARRIERS, TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS, TRADE AGREEMENTS, TAXES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE164481
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: COMM:IEPR:OTP:TND:AWARNER/DGARDNER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740206-0293
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974078/aaaaagzw.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN COME
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) ACCRA A-53, (B) OBR 72-068, (C), STATE A-3164, (D)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <24 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, NONTARIFF TRADE BARRIER DATA BASE
TAGS: ETRD, EFIN, GH, US
To: ACCRA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005